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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Withdrawn) A prosthetic implant, comprising:
a plurality of components adapted for disposition between articulating bones; and
one or more members to tether the components together.
2. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic implant of claim 1, including a member having elastic properties.
3. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic implant of claim 1, wherein the member is a spring.
4. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic implant of claim 1, wherein the member is an elastic band.
5. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic implant of claim 1, wherein the plurality of components are adapted for disposition between opposing vertebral bodies as part of an artificial disc replacement (ADR).
6. (Currently Amended) An artificial disc replacement (ADR), comprising:
a C-shaped shape-memory spring component having a height; and
a generally biconvex component that articulates between the endplate of a vertebra and the C-shaped spring component,
whereby the biconvex component including a portion that extends outwardly beyond the height of the spring component, such that pressure on the biconvex component causes forces the biconvex component into the spring component, causing the ends of the C-shaped component move apart during axial loads on the spine and during spinal flexion, but wherein the shape memory returns the C-shaped component and biconvex components to their neutral positions as the axial load is removed or the spine is returned to a neutral position.
7. (Original) The ADR of claim 6, wherein one or both of the components are coupled to the vertebral bodies through endplate resurfacing components.

GIFFORD, KRASS, GROM, SPRINKLE, ANDERSON & CITKOWSKI, P.C. 2701 TROY CENTER DR., SUITE 330, P.O. BOX 7021 TROY, MICHIGAN 48007-7021 (248) 647-6008

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8. (Currently Amended) A spring-biased prosthetic device configured for placement in an artificial joint or between superior and inferior vertebrae as part of an artificial disc replacement (ADR), comprising:

a spring component between the articular surfaces of the joint or between the superior and inferior vertebrae, thereby creating a central cavity; and

a compressible material at least partially filling the central cavity, the compressible material having a height greater than the spring component, such that the compressible material expands the spring component during axial loads.

9. (Original) The device of claim 8, wherein the spring component includes a shape-memory material.

10. (Original) The device of claim 8, including one or more endplates.

11. (Original) The device of claim 8, wherein the spring component is integral to one or both of the endplates.

12. (Original) The device of claim 8, wherein the compressible material is a hydrogel, elastomer or other polymer.

13. (Withdrawn) A dampened artificial disc replacement (ADR), comprising:
a component that moves laterally within a disc space during compression and relaxation; and
a material that dampens the movement of the component, at least during relaxation.

14. (Withdrawn) The dampened ADR of claim 13, wherein:
the component that moves laterally within a disc space includes a plurality of articulating pieces;

and

a spring component that urges the pieces back together during relaxation.

GIFFORD, KRASS, GROH, SPRAWLE, ANDERSON & CIEKOWSKI, P.C. 2701 TROY CENTER DR., SUITE 330, P.O. BOX 7021 TROY, MICHIGAN 48007-7021 (248) 847-8000

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15. (Withdrawn) The dampened ADR of claim 13, wherein the material that dampens the movement of the component is a hydrogel, polyurethane, foam polyurethane, or other polymer.

16. (Withdrawn) The dampened ADR of claim 13, wherein the component and material are disposed between opposing endplates.

17. (Withdrawn) An artificial disc replacement (ADR) including one or more components constructed with more than one material to provide at least one or more of the following advantages:

- a) improved surface wear characteristics,
- b) shielding of elastic/compressible components from excessive forces, and
- c) sealing of certain structures to avoid exposure to bodily fluids.

18. (Withdrawn) A prosthetic component, comprising:
a bone-contacting component; and
a dampening component,
the interaction between the bone-contacting component and the dampening component enabling the dampening component to be optimized for dampening as opposed to surface wear.

19. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic component of claim 18, wherein the bone-contacting component contacts a vertebrae as part of an artificial disc replacement (ADR).

20. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic component of claim 18, wherein the bone-contacting component contacts a femur or tibia as part of a knee replacement.

21. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic component of claim 18, wherein the bone-contacting component contacts a femur or pelvis as part of a hip replacement.

22. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic component of claim 18, wherein the bone-contacting component

GIFFORD, KRASS, GROH, SPRINKLE, ANDERSON & CITKOVSKY, P.C., 2701 TROY CENTER DR., SUITE 330, P.O. BOX 7021 TROY, MICHIGAN 48067-7021 (248) 647-6000

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is metal or ceramic.

23. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic component of claim 18, wherein the cushioning component is polyethylene.

24. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic component of claim 18, wherein the cushioning component is an elastic metal, polymer, elastomer, or other elastic/compressible/resilient material.

GIFFORD, KRASS, GROH, SPRANKLE, ANDERSON & CITKOWSKI, P.C. 2701 TROY CENTER DR., SUITE 330, P.O. BOX 7021 TROY, MICHIGAN 48067-7021 (248) 617-6000